GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:210
ANSWERED ON:16.11.2007
HYDRO POWER POLICY
Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Power has not come out with a new hydro power policy despite repeated announcement;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for delay;

(c) whether the decision taken during the Chief Ministers Conference held in May 2007 has not been made operational;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) & (b) : A Hydro Policy on hydro power development was announced by the Government in August, 1998 which incorporates several steps and measures for expeditious development of hydro power. Amongst others, it lays emphasis on increasing private investment in the power sector through Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and joint ventures. However based on the experience gained and suggestions from the various stakeholders including the host State Governments, a revised proposal duly incorporating the various suggestions made by the State Governments and the Stakeholders has been circulated to various Ministries / Departments for inter-ministerial consultation.

(c) to (e) : A decision taken in the Chief Ministers Conference held in May 2007 was to constitute a Standing Group of Power Ministers under the Chairmanship of the Union Power Minister to periodically review the implementation of the resolutions adopted in the Conference. The Standing Group of Ministers has been constituted on 30th August, 2007. The first meeting of the Standing Group of Ministers to review the progress of implementation of the resolutions was convened on 24th September, 2007.

On 3rd September, 2007, a Task Force on Hydro Project Development has been also constituted as a Sub Group of the Standing Group of Power Ministers to look into all issues relating to development of hydro power including issues of Rehabilitation & Resettlement of Project Affected Persons.